

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RPERITO:GMH

APPROVED BY S/AS:AMB SMITH

EUR/SOV:G MATTHEWS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T STATE 101040

VIENNA FOR USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, TECH, US, UR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SMITH'S CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET

-- ATOMIC ENERGY DEPUTY CHAIRMAN MOROZOV

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE MEMCON OF AMBASSADOR GERARD SMITH'S AND PHILIP FARLEY'S MEETING WITH IVAN MOROZOV, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET STATE COMMITTEE FOR ATOMIC ENERGY ON APRIL 17.

2. BEGIN TEXT. HIS FIRST QUESTION, MOROZOV SAID, CONCERNED THE OCTOBER CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION (INFCE). HE COMPLAINED THERE WERE SIMPLY TOO MANY MEETINGS ON THIS SUBJECT, YET MUCH WORK REMAINED TO BE DONE. HE ASKED FOR SMITH'S VIEW ON THE PROLIFERATION OF MEETINGS AND ON WHETHER THE TWO-YEAR TIME LIMIT SET FOR THIS WORK WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. SMITH AGREED

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THERE WERE A GREAT MANY MEETINGS, BUT NOTED THAT THERE WERE ALSO A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INVOLVED. MR. FARLEY EXPLAINED THAT THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE WAS NECESSARY SINCE THIS COMMITTEE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING THE EFFORTS OF VARIOUS LOWER LEVEL WORKING GROUPS. HE WAS, HOWEVER, ALSO SYMPATHETIC TO THE VIEW THAT THERE WERE TOO MANY MEETINGS ON

THIS SUBJECT.

NOTING THAT A PLENARY WAS ALSO SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR, MOROZOV ASKED WHETHER THE OCTOBER MEETING WOULD NOT OBVIATE THE NEED FOR HOLDING THE PLENARY SESSION. SMITH REPLIED THAT WE ALSO DISLIKE HOLDING MEETINGS FOR THEIR OWN SAKE, BUT THERE WAS A GENERAL EXPECTATION THAT A PLENARY WOULD BE HELD EACH YEAR. IF WE CHANGED THIS SCHEDULE, HE SAID IT WOULD RESULT IN CRITICISM, OBJECTIONS AND EVEN SUSPICION FROM MANY COUNTRIES. REFERRING BACK TO MOROZOV'S FIRST QUESTION, SMITH SAID THAT WHILE SHORT, THE TWO-YEAR TIME PERIOD WOULD ALLOW FOR IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR INFCE.

MOROZOV EXPLAINED THAT MOST COUNTRIES WERE DEVELOPING THEIR NATIONAL PROGRAMS INDEPENDENT OF THE INFCE. ALSO THERE WAS THE PRACTICAL PROBLEM OF WHAT WOULD THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE DISCUSS IF THE LOWER LEVEL WORKING GROUPS FAILED TO PRODUCE ENOUGH MATERIAL. HEARING FARLEY'S COUNTER ARGUMENTS MOROZOV THEN CONCLUDED WITH HIS OWN PROPOSAL THAT THE NOVEMBER PLENARY MEETING BE COMBINED WITH THE MEETING OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE WHICH IS ALSO SCHEDULED FOR THIS FALL.

SMITH AGREED AND FARLEY SUGGESTED THAT QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THESE MEETINGS BE PUT FORWARD EARLY SO THAT
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THERE WOULD BE A BETTER CHANCE OF REACHING AGREEMENT. MOROZOV THEN REQUESTED FARLEY'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING REPORTS ON FAST BREEDER REACTORS THAT COULD BE PREPARED BY US EXPERTS IN THE FIFTH WORKING GROUP. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SOVIET EXPERTS HAD BEEN SELECTED FOR WORKING GROUP 8 AND PROPOSED THAT, PRIOR TO THE MEETING IN MAY, THEY CONTACT THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS THORUGH EMBASSY MOSCOW.

MOVING ON, MOROZOV SAID HIS SECOND QUESTION CONCERNED THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY. HE ASKED WHEN THE ERUATOM COUNTRIES WOULD ACTUALLY SIGN THE CONTROL AGREEMENTS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION.

SMITH REPLIED THAT SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON THE FACILITY ATTACHMENT FOR LIGHT WATER REACTORS, THE WAK PLANT IN GERMANY, AND RESEARCH FACILITIES-BUT NOT ON FUEL FABRICATION PLANTS. NOTING MOROZOV'S SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE AGREEMENTS, SMITH CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS OUR VIEW THAT THIS PROBLEM WILL SOON BE BEHIND US.

TURNING TO HIS FINAL QUESTION, MOROZOV SAID THE FEBRUARY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING WAS SUPPOSED TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF SOVIET PROFESSOR FROLOFF TO THE POSITION PREVIOUSLY HELD BY PROFESSOR SHELNOV, ALSO OF THE SOVIET UNION. AT

THE LAST MINUTE, HE SAID, THE US MADE AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE BY PROPOSING ITS OWN CANDIDATE SO THAT THE POSITION HAS YET TO BE FILLED. HE THEN ASKED HOW THIS SITUATION COULD BE RESOLVED.

SMITH REPLIED THAT HE WAS AGAINST SETTING PRECEDENTS, BUT DID WANT TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. THE US CANDIDATE, THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED, HAD BEEN PROPOSED OVER TWO YEARS AGO, BUT WAS WITHDRAWN WHEN PROFESSOR SHELNOV DECIDED TO STAY ON. WHEN THE POST DID COME OPEN, THE US SIMPLY RE-

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NEWED ITS CANDIDACY SO IT COULD NOT BE SAID TO HAVE BEEN PROPOSED AT THE LAST MINUTE. SMITH THEN REPEATED INFORMATION WHICH HE SAID HAD ALSO BEEN GIVEN DIRECTOR GENERAL EKLUND THAT THE US HAD DECIDED TO WITHDRAW ITS CANDIDATE. HE NOTED THAT THE US DID, HOWEVER, HAVE A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF HEAD OF THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION COMMITTEE WHOM HE HOPED WOULD NOW RECEIVE SOVIET SUPPORT.

NODDING IN AGREEMENT, MOROZOV SAID THAT HE HONESTLY HAD NOT KNOWN ABOUT OUR INITIAL PROPOSAL OF THE US CANDIDATE BUT WAS GLAD THAT THIS PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED IN A WAY WHICH SATISFIED BOTH COUNTRIES. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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